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Fall 1991

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your inquiry about "A Celebration of Teaching." Throughout this initiative, the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation seeks to recruit young people into the profession we love, teaching. By presenting a program in a school, district or county, we hope that outstanding teachers will engage the hearts and minds of students who may be prospective teachers.

As teachers, we are in a privileged position to guide bright, caring students toward our profession, instilling in them the possibility of considering the joys and struggles of our calling. The nation faces a continuing challenge to attract talented teachers, particularly those from underrepresented groups.

The enclosed brochure describes different aspects of our Celebration efforts and should give you a sense of our mission. The guidelines provide the specifics of what we are seeking in your proposals for future programs.

The deadline for your submission is December 15, 1991. Your proposal should be no more than two pages and will be read carefully by nine teachers who have organized Celebration programs of their own during the past year. We will award 50 grants of \$1,000 each for the outstanding proposals by February 1, 1992. We will notify you then of our decision.

With all good wishes.

Sincerely,


Peter Schmidt
Co-Directors, A Celebration of Teaching


Ruth Campopiano
Co-Directors, A Celebration of Teaching

cc: Scott McVay, Executive Director
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation

TEACH



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A CELEBRATION OF TEACHING

Guidelines for Proposals

- Write a 500-word description of how you would organize an active program to recruit bright able youth for the teaching profession.
- Proposals that indicate specific strategies for involving students in teaching experiences will be viewed with favor.
- Submit your proposal on school or district stationery, with a cover letter co-signed by you and the principal.
- Mail your submission postmarked by December 15, 1991 to:

Ruth Campopiano and Peter Schmidt
Co-Directors
Celebration of Teaching Program
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
P.O. Box 1239
Morristown, New Jersey 07962-1239

- You may use the slogan, logo and acronym displayed here or devise your own.
- All applications will be reviewed by educators who have presented successful programs in the past.
- Award winners will be notified by February 1, 1992 through their school or school district, which will administer the funds. The award should not be used for scholarships.
- If you are not a public school, we require written Internal Revenue Service confirmation of the organization's 501(c)(3) designation under the Internal Revenue Code.

TEACH

PROGRAMS

A Celebration of Teaching has blossomed from a grassroots project in northern New Jersey to a national recruiting program designed to help secure the future of the teaching profession. Ongoing programs include:

- an annual **Celebration of Teaching** program in April for all public, private, and parochial schools in Morris County, New Jersey;
- a statewide program with linkages to the new Jersey State and County Teachers of the Year that is designed to promote Celebrations in every New Jersey county;
- a national undertaking in cooperation with the National State Teachers of the Year and national advertising through *Teacher* magazine and *Education Week* that will encourage Celebrations in all 50 states.
- an affiliation with the Future Educators of America.

If you would like to organize a Celebration or learn about programs in your locale, please contact:

Ruth Campoplano or Peter Schmidt, Co-directors
A Celebration of Teaching
Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation
163 Madison Avenue
P.O. Box 1239
Morristown, New Jersey
07962-1239

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A Celebration of Teaching

An initiative of the
Geraldine R. Dodge
Foundation

DESCRIPTION

"A Celebration of Teaching" is a teacher recruitment effort which brings together bright middle school and high school students and dedicated educators to explore teaching as a career. This initiative was begun by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation in Morris County, New Jersey. In April, 1987, as a public school/private school collaboration, involving more than 100 students and 25 teachers in a one day program. Celebration of Teaching programs have included:

- panel discussions
- roundtable discussions
- role-playing activities
- micro-teaching activities
- tutoring
- shadowing
- writing thank you notes to teachers who have made a difference

HIGHLIGHTS

The Morris County Celebration of Teaching has become a model for other programs throughout the United States. Organizers are encouraged to think creatively to allow for needs and resources. Approximately 2,500 teachers and 11,000 students have taken part in 150 celebrations in 41

states. Celebrations have taken place in schools, on college campuses, in restaurants, in camp settings, and have stimulated interaction of educators at all levels of the professional spectrum, from pre-school to college. Students say:

"It was thrilling to know that there were so many enthusiastic teachers who took pride in their occupation and shared their excitement with others. It also amazed me that in a society that is so money-oriented and often puts down teaching, there exists so many fellow students who have the same interests as I do."

"I was determined to pursue music as a career and I never quite understood what it meant to be a teacher of music—or of anything—until 'Celebration'....It showed me more of what goes into teaching and what makes a great teacher. It made me more enthusiastic about teaching than anything thus far."

DIVERSITY

From New York City to Los Angeles, teachers and students have enriched the profession with ideas that have simultaneously recognized teachers and encouraged bright, capable

students to think seriously about teaching careers. From around the United States, ideas flourish!

• **Mequon, Wisconsin** - Students shadow master teachers for several days before participating in workshops about entering the teaching profession.

• **Lubbock, Texas** - 200 minority students from 22 northern Texas high schools hear panels of teachers explain why they entered the profession.

• **Fall River, Massachusetts** - Teachers from elementary and secondary schools collaborate on a program in which school and community leaders recognize the teaching profession.

• **New York City** - More than 100 students and two dozen teachers of culturally diverse backgrounds join together to explore the issue, "Why teach?"